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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,649	07/07/2003	Joanne R. Bonnell	2002P20262 US01	7643

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EXAMINER

KRAMER, JAMES A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/614,649

Applicant(s)

BONNELL, JOANNE R. 

Examiner

James A. Kramer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sampson in view of Official Notice.

Sampson teaches a method and apparatus for electronically performing bookkeeping upon a plurality of accounting journal entries comprising a parental set for a predetermined period of time, each journal entry of the plurality of accounting journal entries having a transaction identifier, at least one account number (source identifier) and at least one data component associated with each account number (income amount total value), each journal entry having been prepared based upon criteria associated with a particular definition within a predetermined chart of accounts.

First, the predetermined chart of accounts associated with the plurality of journal entries is read electronically. The predetermined chart of accounts must have at least one account number and each account number has an opening balance. A set of account-section numbers is then created for each account number. The plurality of journal entries is read and one of the account-section numbers is assigned to each of the account numbers in the journal entry.

(Identifying an income account associated with a department based on income source identifier)

The assigned account-section numbers along with the associated data components are then sorted in a predetermined order. A design for the predetermined order is identified and compared with stored design records to see if such a design already exists. If not, the new design is stored. If so, the associated data components are added to the accumulated total for each account-section number. A tally representing the number of additions to the set of account-section numbers is increased by one and an entry number is added to a list for the particular design record. The process is then repeated for each journal entry (collating and combining data of income accounts during a time period).

In addition Sampson teaches, Opening balances may be updated periodically by adding the accumulated totals for all of the account-section numbers. Account numbers may include an indicator of criteria associated with the particular definition of the predetermined chart of accounts. For example, if double-entry bookkeeping is performed, the criteria would indicate that separate account-section numbers should be created and assigned for debit and credit for each account number. A sparse matrix of n-dimension may be used for creating, searching for, and accumulating totals for designs which identify the journal entries. (column 3; line 66 – column 4; line 43).

Examiner references Figure 8 and notes that the system of Sampson creates financial statement records. Specifically Accounts receivable, sales tax payable and sales are examples from Figure 8 of these records which are created.

Sampson further teaches the present system and method are useful for many large enterprises that generate large volumes of data entries, where each such entry has associated with it one of more items representing important information. Examiner notes that Sampson does not

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specifically mention a hospital. However, Examiner takes official Notice that it is old and well known that hospitals are large enterprises that generate large volumes of data entries, where each such entry has associated with it one of more items representing important information. In fact Applicant so much as admits this fact in the arguments presented with the amendment filed on 10/19/04. Applicant asserts that the Barber reference fails to teach a hospital which “has far more complex income sources and income processing procedures”.

As such, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Sampson to specifically name a hospital as an enterprise that generates large volumes of data entries. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to specifically illustrate some examples of large and complex organizations.

Claim 2 requires that the received message data identify medical insurance reimbursement income amounts received for services rendered to patients during a time period. Examiner notes that this data is old and well known in the medical and hospital arts. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the at least one account number (source identifier) and at least one data component associated with each account number (income amount total value) of Sampson to include medical insurance reimbursements in order include all the accounts of a hospital.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (703) 305-5241. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (703) 305-4716. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

**MICHAEL CUFF**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James A. Kramer  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3627

jak

*Michael Cuff* 12/20/04  
MICHAEL CUFF  
PRIMARY EXAMINER